



ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

1/13/87 A3275-2
Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

For Immediate Release

1986 RAIL TRAFFIC INCREASES SLIGHTLY

WASHINGTON, January 7, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during 1986 totaled an estimated 880 billion ton-miles, up 0.3 percent from 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Carloadings for the year totaled 19,477,475, down 0.5 percent from 1985.

The lack of growth in 1986 traffic was attributed primarily to a sluggish national economy.

On a quarterly basis, 1986 ton-miles trailed comparable periods of 1985 by 0.5 percent in the first quarter and 0.9 percent in the second quarter, before posting modest gains of nearly 1 percent in the third quarter and 1.7 percent in the fourth quarter. Ton-miles for the year increased by 2.4 percent in the West and decreased by 2.8 percent in the East.

As shown on page 4, a total of 13 of the 21 major commodity groups declined compared with 1985. The biggest losers were coal, down 112,616 cars (1.9 percent) and non-metallic minerals, down 115,310 cars (20.3 percent).

The only commodity group to show a substantial increase over 1985 was grain, up 78,461 cars (6.6 percent).

(more)

Ton-miles for the holiday week ended December 27 totaled 11.2 billion, 11.0 percent below the corresponding week of 1985. Carloadings were down 1.8 percent from 1985, and down 37.4 percent from the preceding non-holiday week of 1986.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 20 totaled 106,675 trailers and/or containers, 8.8 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 51 weeks of the year was 4,938,669 trailers and/or containers, up 9.1 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/27/86:

	Loadings in Week ended December 27, 1986			Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars			Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	16,389	D		920	5.3	D	10,271	38.5
Other farm products	3,115	I		249	8.7	D	1,111	26.3
Metallic ores	5,331	D		2,880	35.1	D	4,484	45.7
Coal	65,311	D		6,157	8.6	D	52,587	44.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	4,582	D		558	10.9	D	5,516	54.6
Nonmetallic minerals	7,900	I		1,010	14.7	I	412	5.5
Grain mill products	8,207	D		20	0.2	D	2,719	24.9
Food and kindred products	7,131	D		38	0.5	D	3,621	33.7
Primary forest products	5,776	I		197	3.5	D	5,347	48.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	4,952	I		648	15.1	D	2,850	36.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,462	I		1,426	14.2	D	659	5.4
Chemicals and allied products	18,059	D		1,132	5.9	D	6,541	26.6
Petroleum products	3,207	D		249	7.2	D	1,232	27.8
Stone, clay and glass products	5,464	D		367	6.3	D	2,929	34.9
Coke	3,775	D		146	3.7	I	223	6.3
Metals and products	5,368	D		520	8.8	D	1,593	22.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	10,570	I		1,879	21.6	D	9,127	46.3
Waste and scrap materials	4,608	I		765	19.9	D	3,341	42.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	1,980	D		1,833	48.1	D	1,039	34.4
All other carloads	46,075	I		4,179	10.0	D	28,786	38.5
LCL traffic	46	D		24	34.3	D	47	50.5
Total Cars Loaded	239,308	D		4,491	1.8	D	143,165	37.4
Corresponding week of 1985	243,799							
	<u>1986</u>			<u>1985</u>			<u>% Change</u>	
Total Cars Loaded (52 weeks)	19,477,475			19,574,453			D 0.5	
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):								
51 Weeks ended December 20	868.4			864.2			I 0.5	
Week ended December 27	<u>11.2</u>			<u>12.5</u>			D 11.0	
52 Weeks cumulative	879.6			876.7			I 0.3	

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for 52 weeks of 1986 and 1985:

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>		Incr./Decr. vs.	
				1986	1985
	Cars	Cars		Cars	Percent
Grain	1,265,471	1,187,010	I	78,461	6.6
Other farm products	192,051	188,474	I	3,577	1.9
Metallic ores	742,404	725,436	I	16,968	2.3
Coal	5,679,910	5,792,526	D	112,616	1.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	667,300	641,668	I	25,632	4.0
Nonmetallic minerals	453,039	568,349	D	115,310	20.3
Grain mill products	544,777	536,883	I	7,894	1.5
Food and kindred products	561,696	568,446	D	6,750	1.2
Primary forest products	532,305	584,459	D	52,154	8.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	397,297	366,234	I	31,063	8.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	657,408	712,490	D	55,082	7.7
Chemicals and allied products	1,239,671	1,251,498	D	11,827	0.9
Petroleum products	239,855	236,798	I	3,057	1.3
Stone, clay and glass products	508,295	529,973	D	21,678	4.1
Coke	218,357	253,573	D	35,216	13.9
Metals and products	414,288	445,073	D	30,785	6.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	1,035,300	1,092,149	D	56,849	5.2
Waste and scrap materials	410,633	436,313	D	25,680	5.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	201,108	335,870	D	134,762	40.1
All other carloads	3,510,284	3,113,132	I	397,152	12.8
LCL traffic	<u>6,026</u>	<u>8,099</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>2,073</u>	<u>25.6</u>
Total Cars Loaded	19,477,475	19,574,453	D	96,978	0.5

Estimated revenue ton-miles
(in billions):

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>% Change</u>
First quarter	219.6	220.6	D 0.5
Second quarter	221.5	223.4	D 0.9
Third quarter	218.3	216.3	I 0.9
Fourth quarter	<u>220.1</u>	<u>216.4</u>	<u>I 1.7</u>
Year	879.6	876.7	I 0.3